

The Opioid Epidemic: A Public Health Perspective

We're experiencing the consequences of managing pain with ***prescription opioids*** for 25 years.

This practice has improved the quality of life for many, created **unintended opioid addictions**, and **eroded the inhibition** to use opioids recreationally;

combined with

Unprecedented availably of inexpensive, easy to find heroin and fentanyl.

The drivers of the opioid epidemic are easier to identify than resolve, this is a deceptively complex epidemic.

Many groups across North Carolina are coordinating to address the Opioid Epidemic.

North Carolina has made progress, has successes, and more work to do.

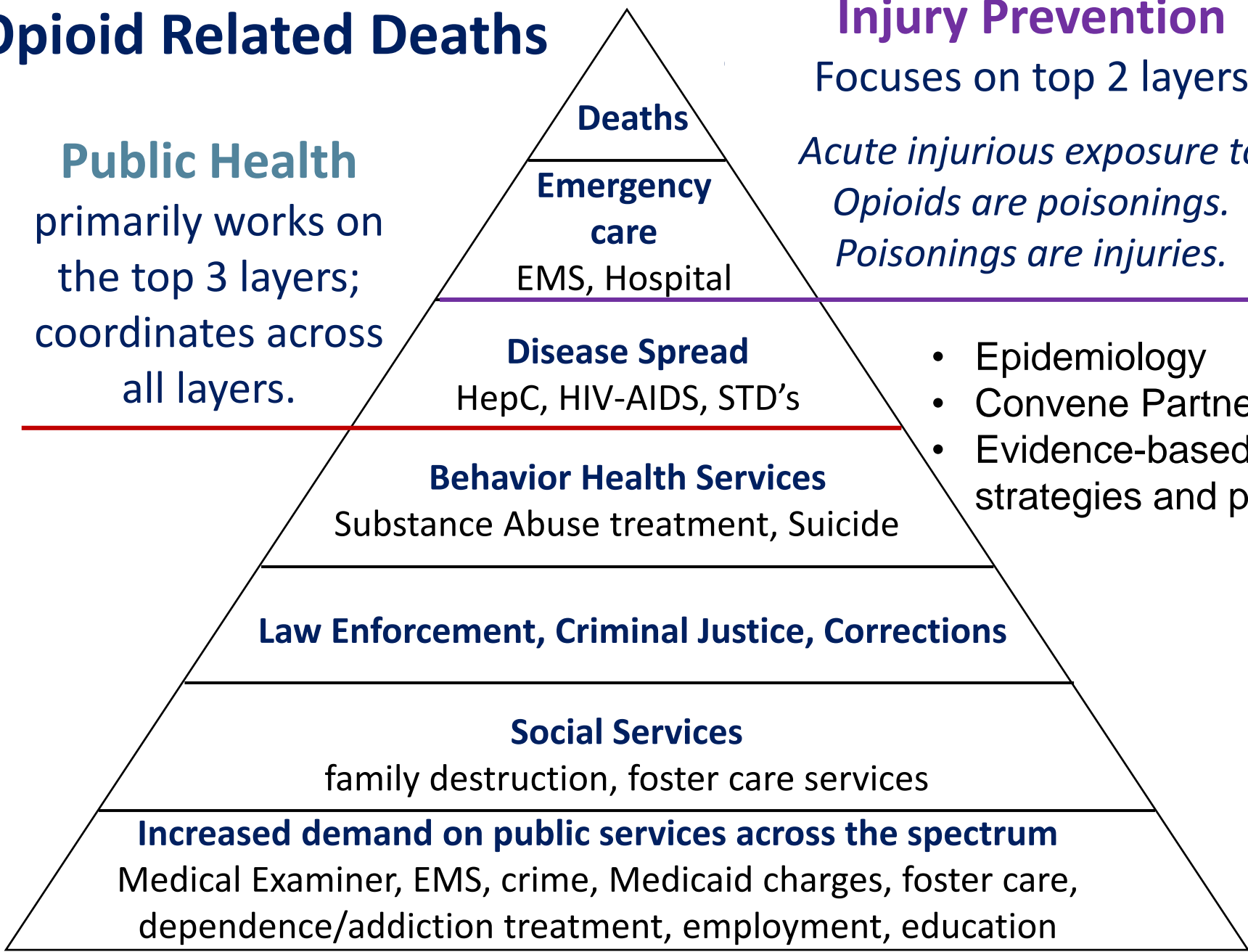
Opioid Related Deaths

Injury Prevention

Focuses on top 2 layers

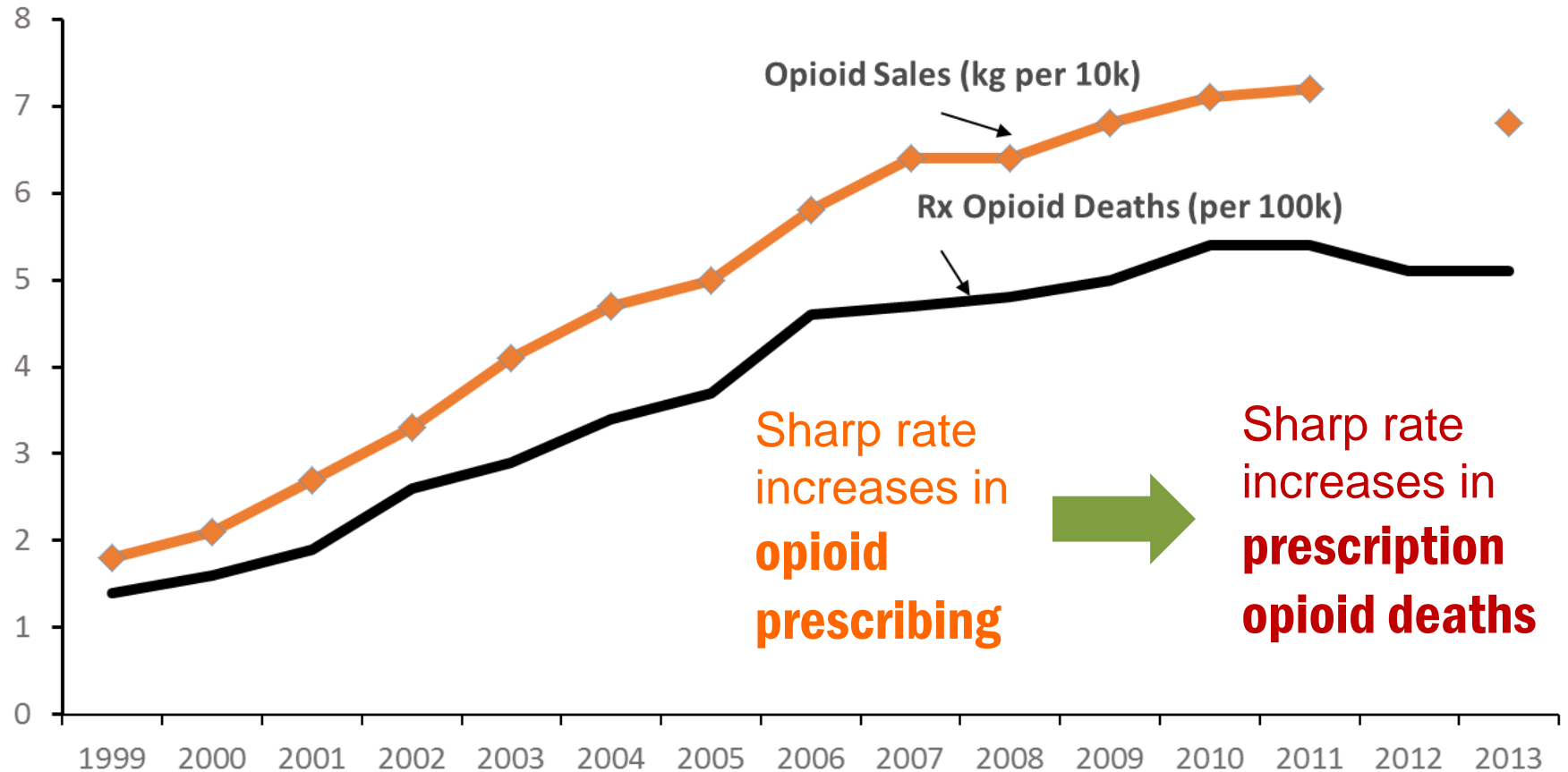
Public Health
 primarily works on
 the top 3 layers;
 coordinates across
 all layers.

*Acute injurious exposure to
 Opioids are poisonings.
 Poisonings are injuries.*

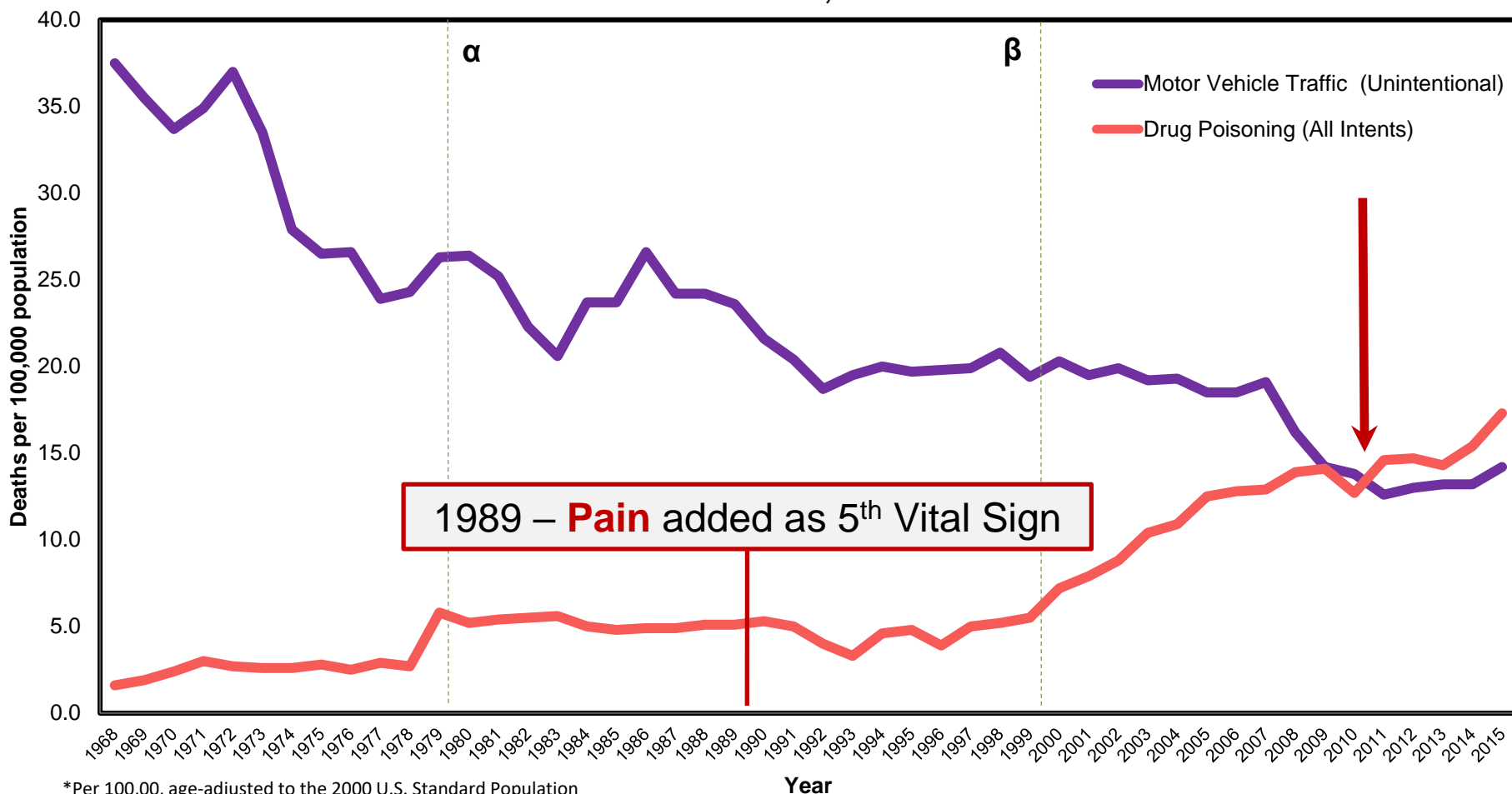


- Epidemiology
- Convene Partners
- Evidence-based strategies and policy.

National Rates of Opioid Prescribing and Rates of Opioid Death



Death Rates* for Two Selected Causes of Injury, North Carolina, 1968-2015



*Per 100,00, age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Standard Population

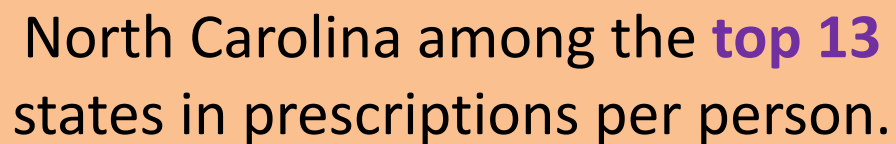
α - Transition from ICD-8 to ICD-9

β - Transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10

National Vital Statistics System, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>, multiple cause dataset

Source: Death files, 1968-2015, CDC WONDER

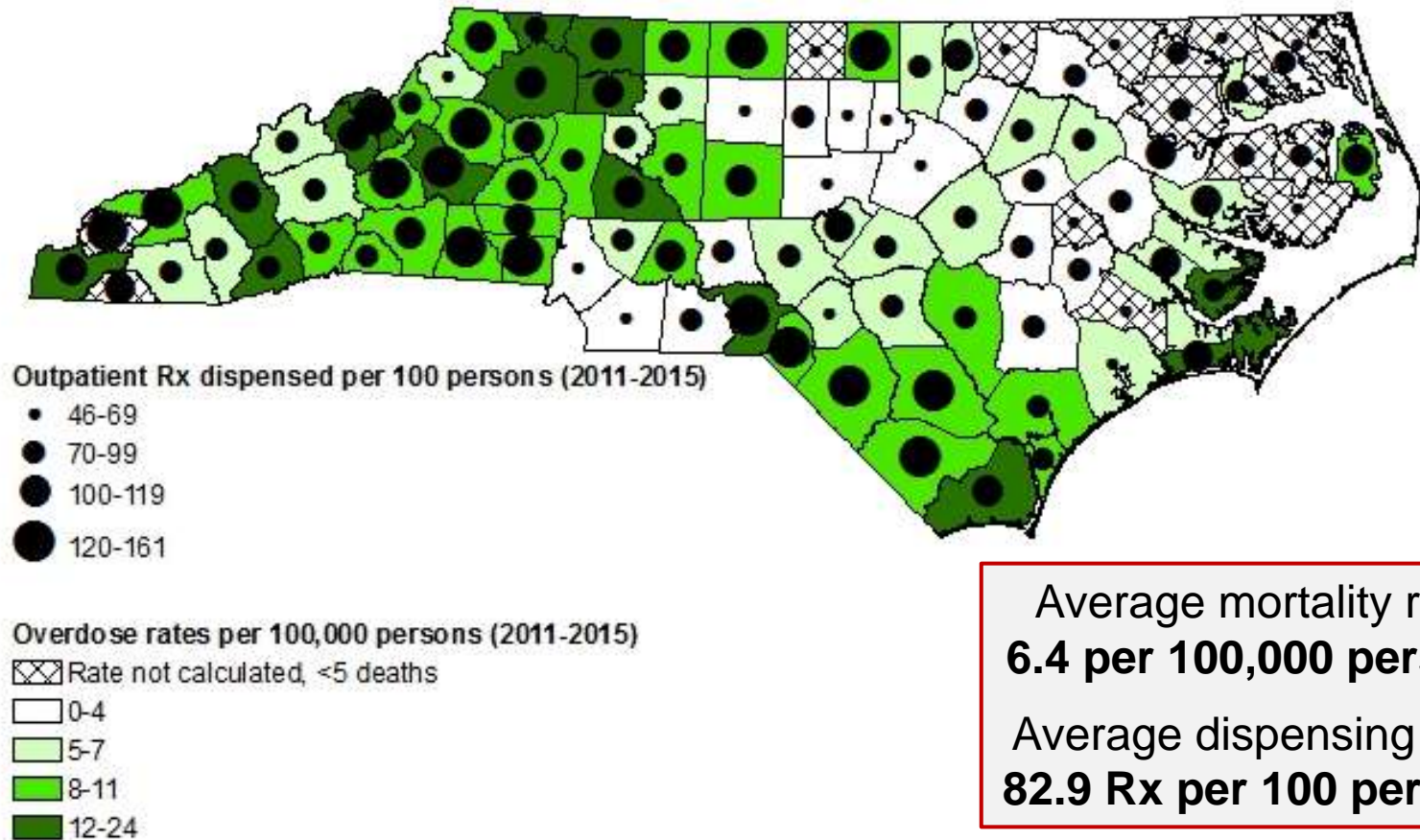
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit



<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/opioid-prescribing/index.html>

Rates of Unintentional/Undetermined Prescription Opioid Overdose Deaths & Outpatient Opioid Analgesic Prescriptions Dispensed

North Carolina Residents, 2011-2015

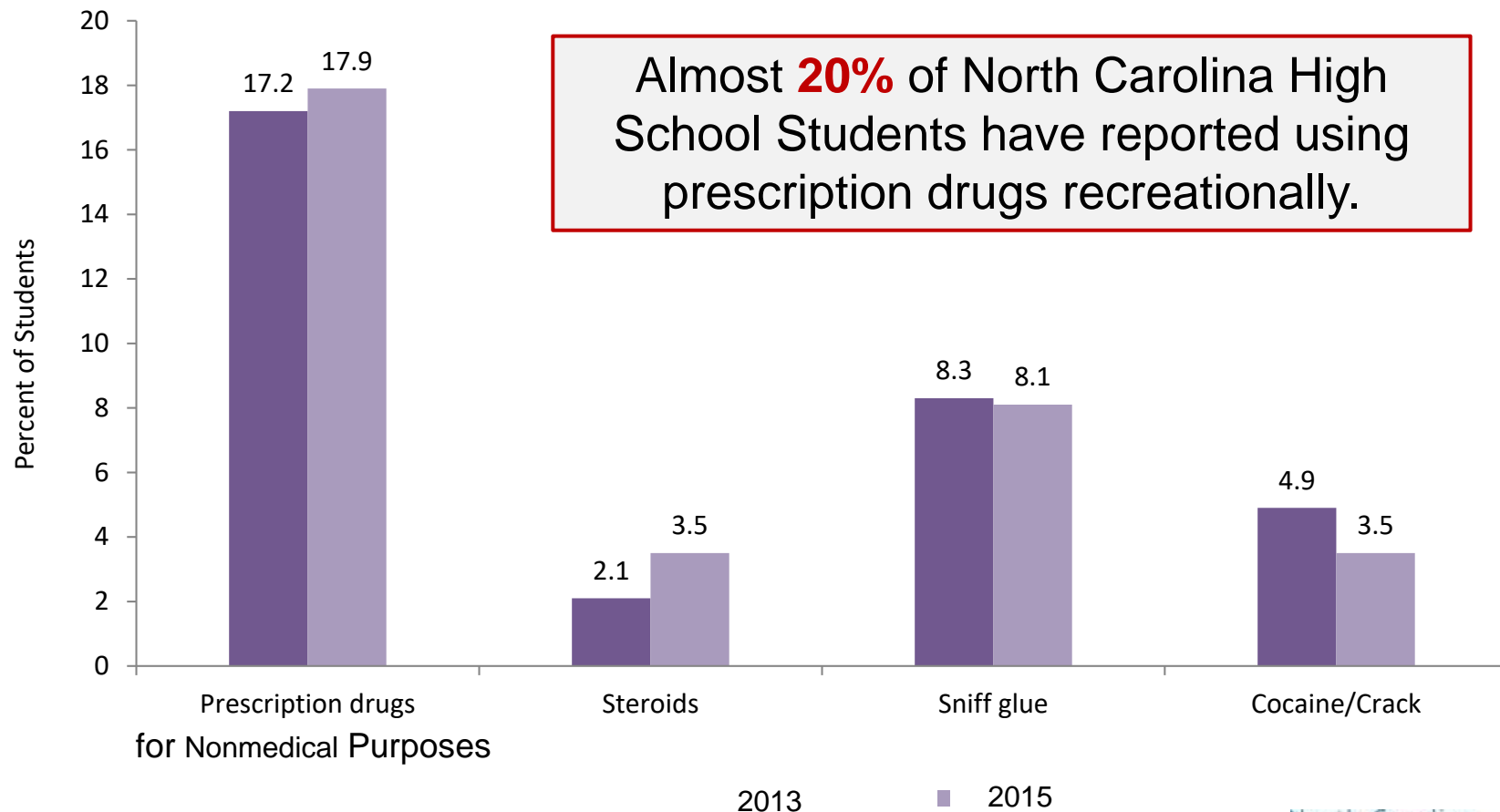


Average mortality rate:
6.4 per 100,000 persons

Average dispensing rate:
82.9 Rx per 100 persons

Source: Deaths- N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics, 2011-2015, Overdose: (X40-X44 & Y10-Y14) and commonly prescribed opioid T-codes (T40.2 and T40.3)/Population-National Center for Health Statistics, 2011-2015/Opioid Dispensing- Controlled Substance Reporting System, NC Division of Mental Health, 2011-2015
Analysis: Injury and Epidemiology Surveillance Unit

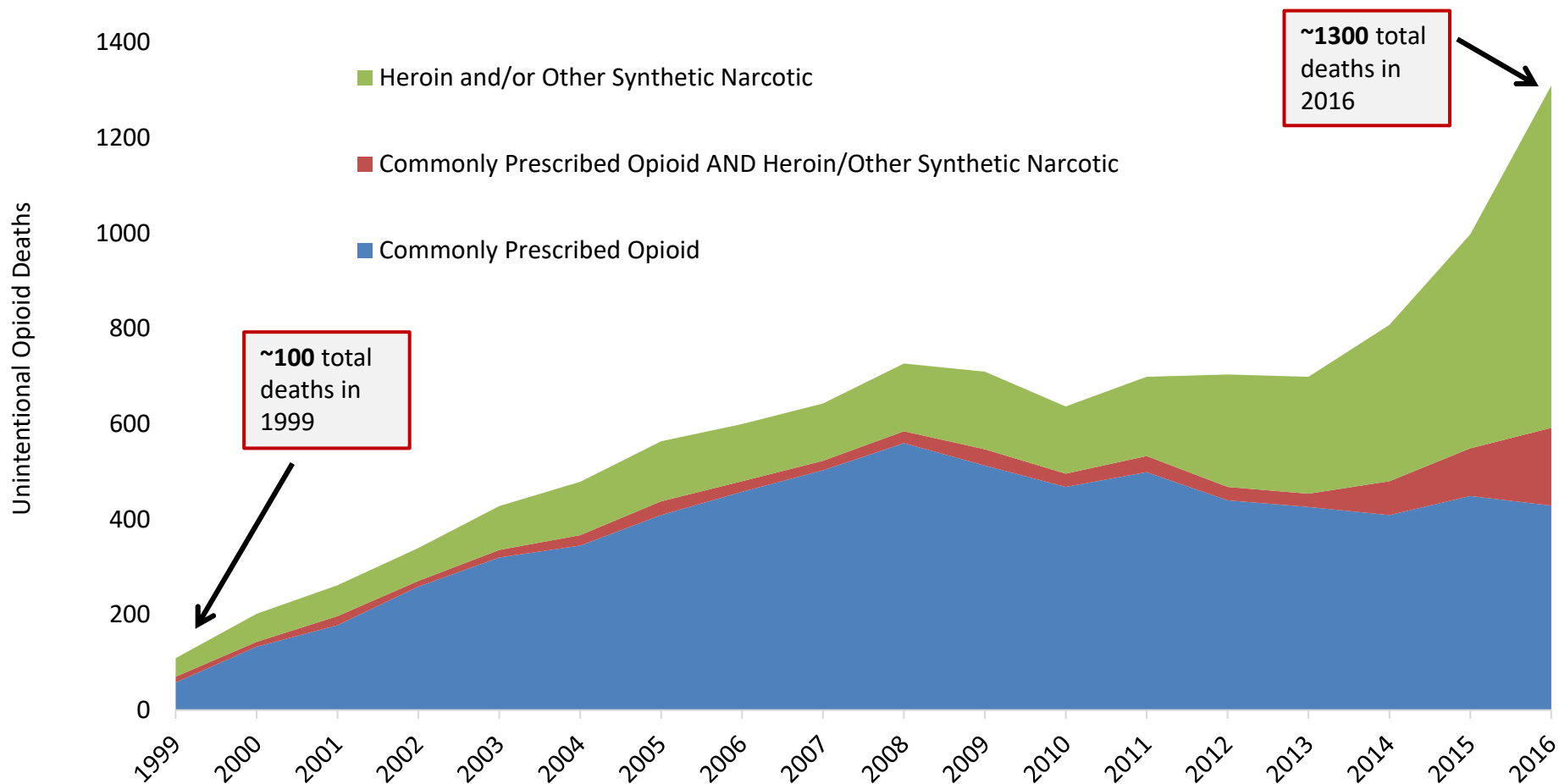
Self-reported Lifetime Use of Drugs among North Carolina High School Students



North Carolina Data Overview

Unintentional opioid deaths have increased more than 10 fold

Heroin or other synthetic narcotics are now involved in over 50% of deaths



Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 1999-2015

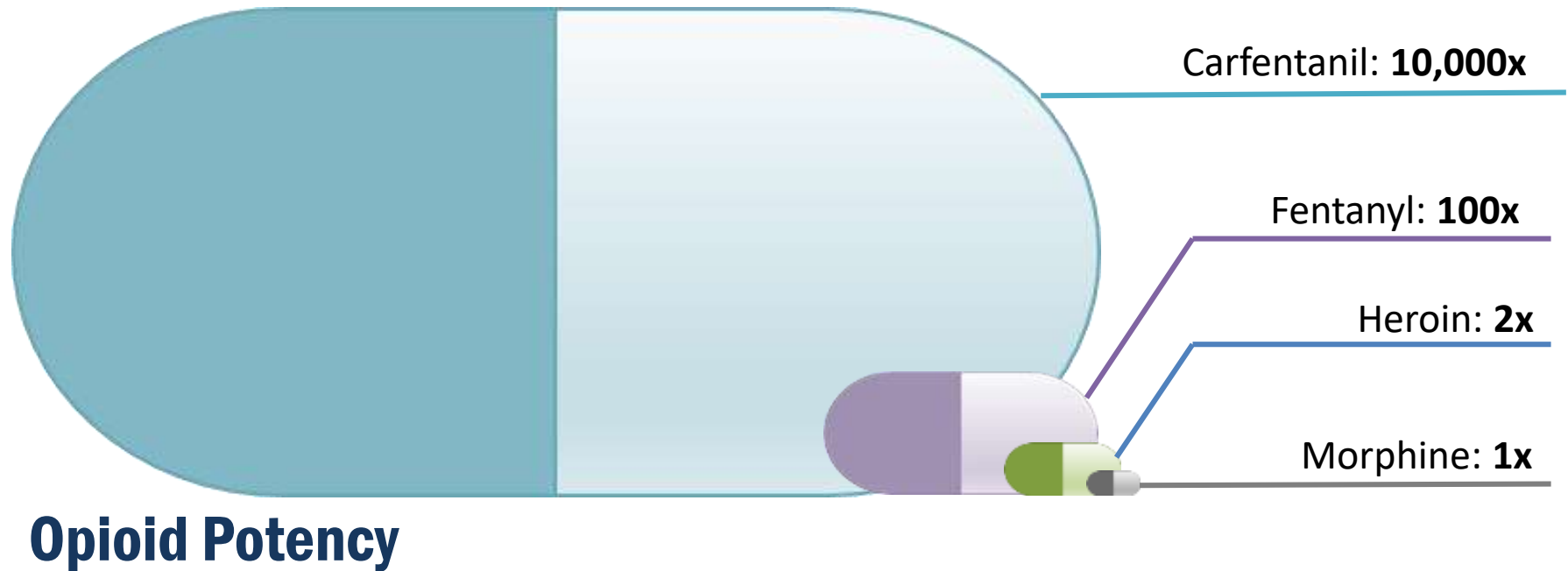
Unintentional medication/drug (X40-X44) with specific T-codes by drug type, Commonly Prescribed Opioid

Medications=T40.2 or T40.3; Heroin and/or Other Synthetic Narcotics=T40.1 or T40.4.

Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

**With unprecedented availability of cheap
heroin and fentanyl...**

MORE PEOPLE ARE DYING



Strategies

Drug Take Back in North Carolina

Since 2010

- Collected **53 million** pills at **1,600 events**
- **150+** Permanent Take-Back Locations

NC Medical Journal Article Jan 2016

<http://www.ncmedicaljournal.com/content/77/1/59.full>



Largest Drug Take Back Program in the Country, National Model

Home Drop Boxes by County

Do you need to...

Find a Drop Box to dispose of my medications...

- By county
- By customizing a list of all Drop Boxes statewide

Find an Event to dispose of my medications...

- By county
- By customizing a list of all Events statewide
- By viewing calendar of Events



Register with OMD to list Drop Boxes and/or hold Events

Log in to my account

Drop Boxes by County

County

Drop Box Locations and Schedule for Halifax - Click icon for more details

Details	City	Location	Address	County	State	Zip	Schedule
	Halifax	Halifax County Sheriff's Office	355 Ferrell Drive	Halifax	NC	27839	24 hours and 7 days a week
	Scotland Neck	Scotland Neck Police Dept.	101 E. 11th St.	Halifax	NC	27874	October 26, 2013 from 10:00AM TO 2:00PM

1 - 2

<http://www.ncdoi.com/osfm/safekids/Operation%20Medicine%20Drop.aspx?sec=omd>

2013 North Carolina Good Samaritan/Naloxone Access Law

Since August 1, 2013

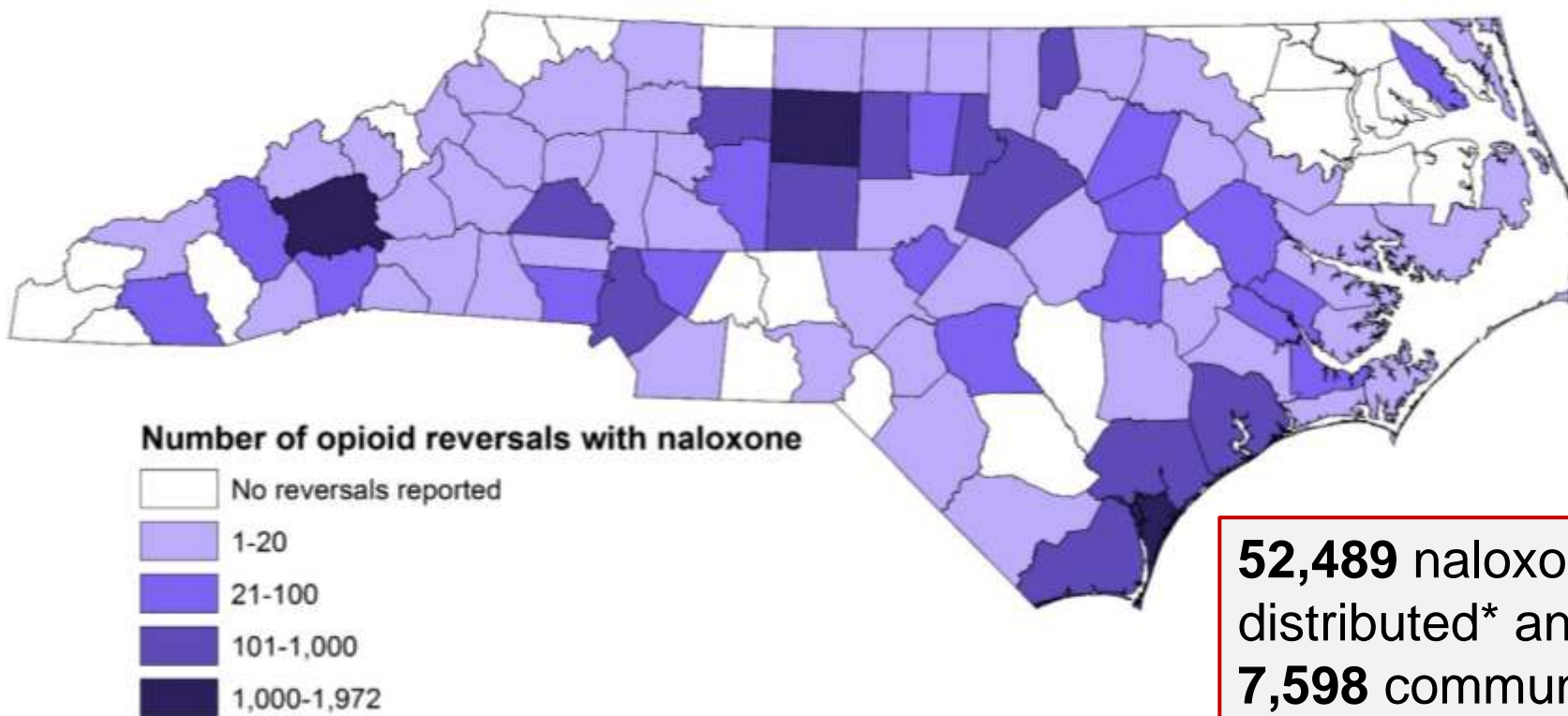
52,489 overdose rescue kits distributed

7,598 confirmed overdose reversals



www.nchrc.org/programs-and-services

Opioid Overdose Reversals with Naloxone Reported to the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, 8/1/2013-7/31/2017



52,489 naloxone kits distributed* and **7,598** community reversals reported**

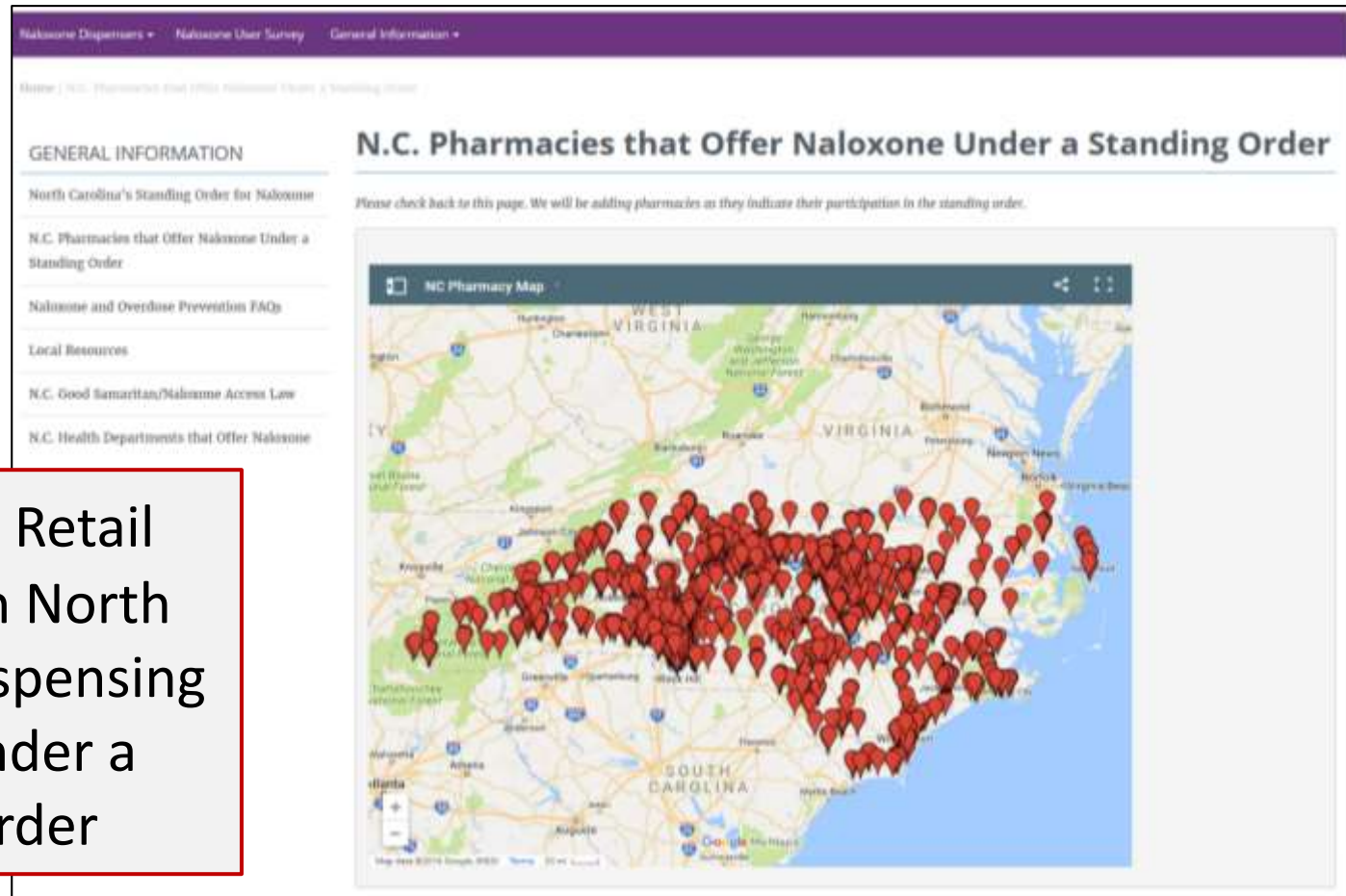
*87 kits distributed in an unknown location in North Carolina and 12 kits distributed to individuals living in states outside of North Carolina; includes 3,541 kits distributed to Law Enforcement Agencies

**29 reversals in an unknown location in North Carolina and 128 reversals using NCHRC kits in other states reported to NCHRC

Source: North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC), August 2017
Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

NC's Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone

June 20, 2016 – Law authorizes state health director to issue statewide standing order for naloxone

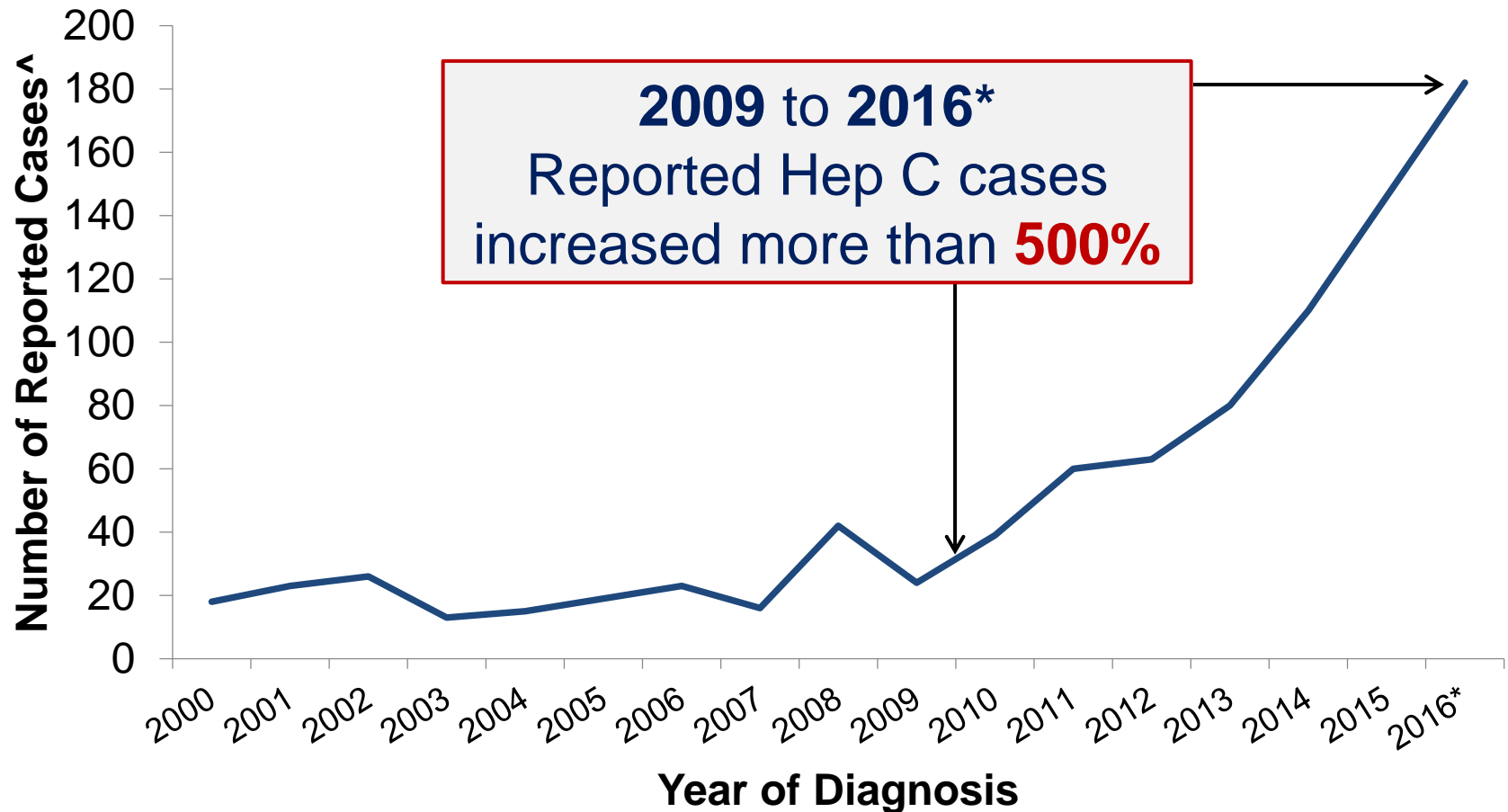


1,393 (69%) Retail pharmacies in North Carolina are dispensing Naloxone under a standing order

www.NaloxoneSaves.org

Increase in Acute Hepatitis C Cases

North Carolina, 2000–2016*



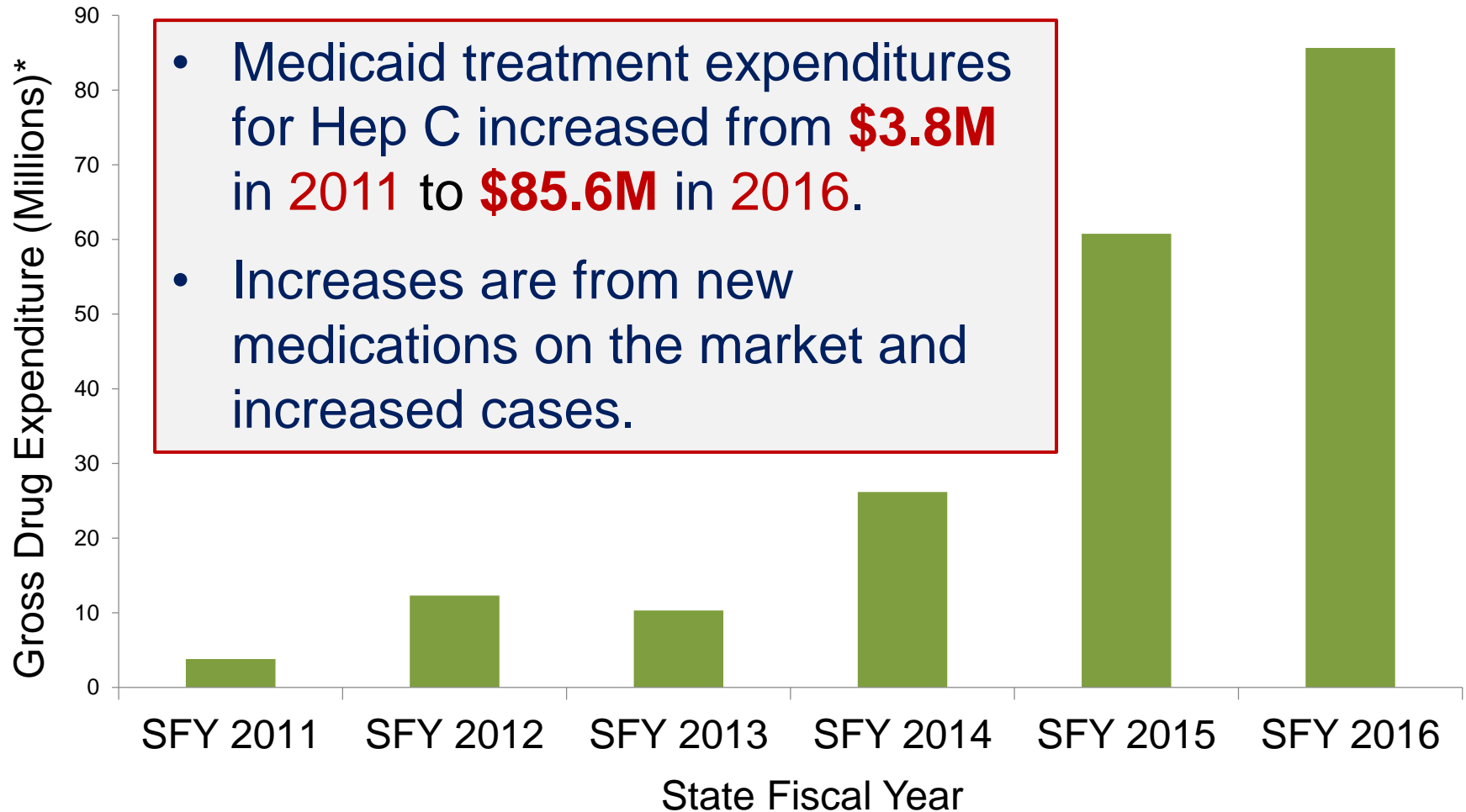
Note: Case definition for acute Hepatitis C changed in 2016.

*Data from 2016 are preliminary and subject to change

^ Estimated true number 10–15x higher than number of reported cases.

Medicaid Gross Drug Expenditure for Hep C

North Carolina, SFY 2011–16

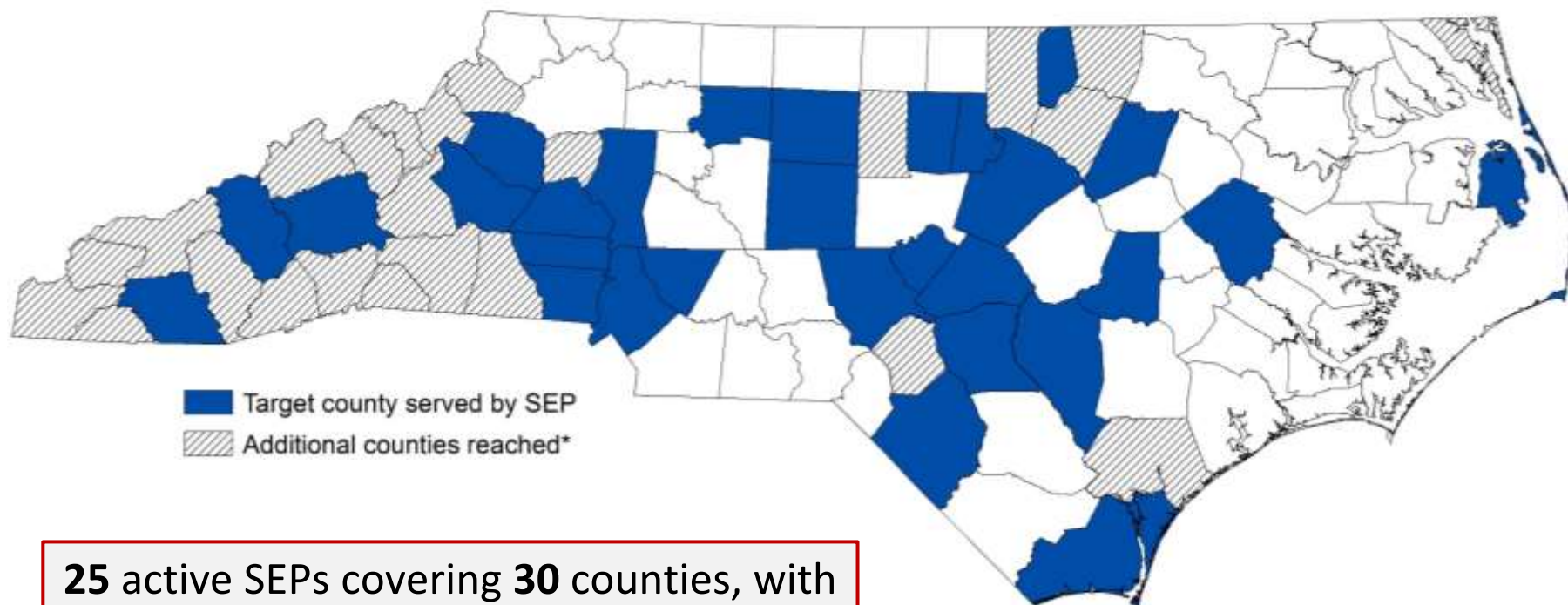


*Does not account for drug rebates

NC Syringe Exchange Programs (SEP)

- **July 11, 2016** - Legalized in NC
- Any governmental or nongovernmental organization *“that promotes scientifically proven ways of mitigating health risks associated with drug use and other high risk behaviors”* can start a SEP
- **Legal Protections**
 - “No employee, volunteer or participant of the syringe exchange can be charged with possession of syringes or other injection supplies, or with residual amounts of controlled substances in them, obtained from or returned to a syringe exchange”

Counties served by Syringe Exchange Programs (SEPs) as of September 2017



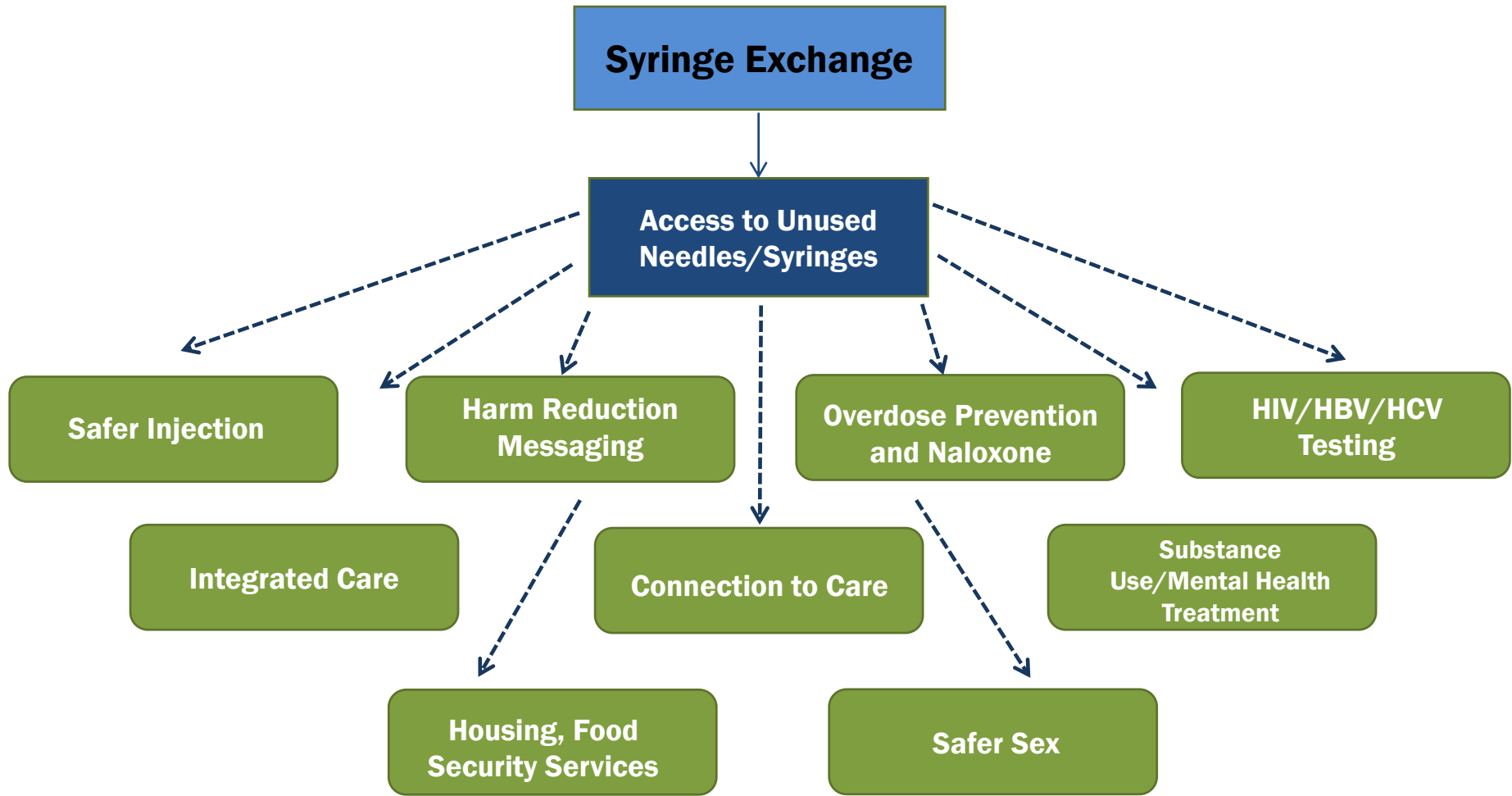
25 active SEPs covering **30** counties, with individuals commuting from an additional **24** counties and out of state

*Residents from these counties without SEP coverage traveled to receive services in a SEP target county

Source: North Carolina Division of Public Health, September 2017

Analysis: Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

Syringe Exchange Starts a Conversation



Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act (House Bill 243)

- **Passed unanimously by both houses of the General Assembly on June 28, 2017**
- **Signed by Governor Roy Cooper on June 29, 2017**
- **Targeted controlled substances under the Act**
 - **Schedule II and Schedule III Opioids**



Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act

Smarter Prescribing

- Reduce unused, misused, and diverted pills with **5-day limit** on initial prescriptions for acute pain.
- Reduce doctor shopping and improve care with **required check** of state prescription database.
- Reduce fraud through **e-prescribing**.

Smarter Dispensing

- Universal registration and reporting.
- Near-time reporting to detect and stop doctor-shopping.

A Renewed Commitment to Treatment, Recovery and Saving Lives

- Improve health and save money by investing in local treatment and recovery services.
- Reverse overdoses and save lives.

Many organizations* across NC are addressing the opioid overdose epidemic.



North Carolina Prescription Drug Abuse Advisory Committee

[About Us](#) · [Meetings](#) · [Agendas & Presentations](#) · [Workgroups](#) · [Strategic Plan](#) · [Contact](#)



Upcoming Events

- **Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit, June 27 - 28, 2017**
 - [Register here](#) for the upcoming summit!
- The next PDAAC meeting will be held in September. Please join us at the Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit!

Quick Links

- [Naloxone Saves](#)
- [North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative](#)
- [North Carolina Injury and Violence Prevention Strategic Plan, 2015 - 2020](#)

Resource website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ncpdaac>

NORTH CAROLINA'S OPIOID ACTION PLAN

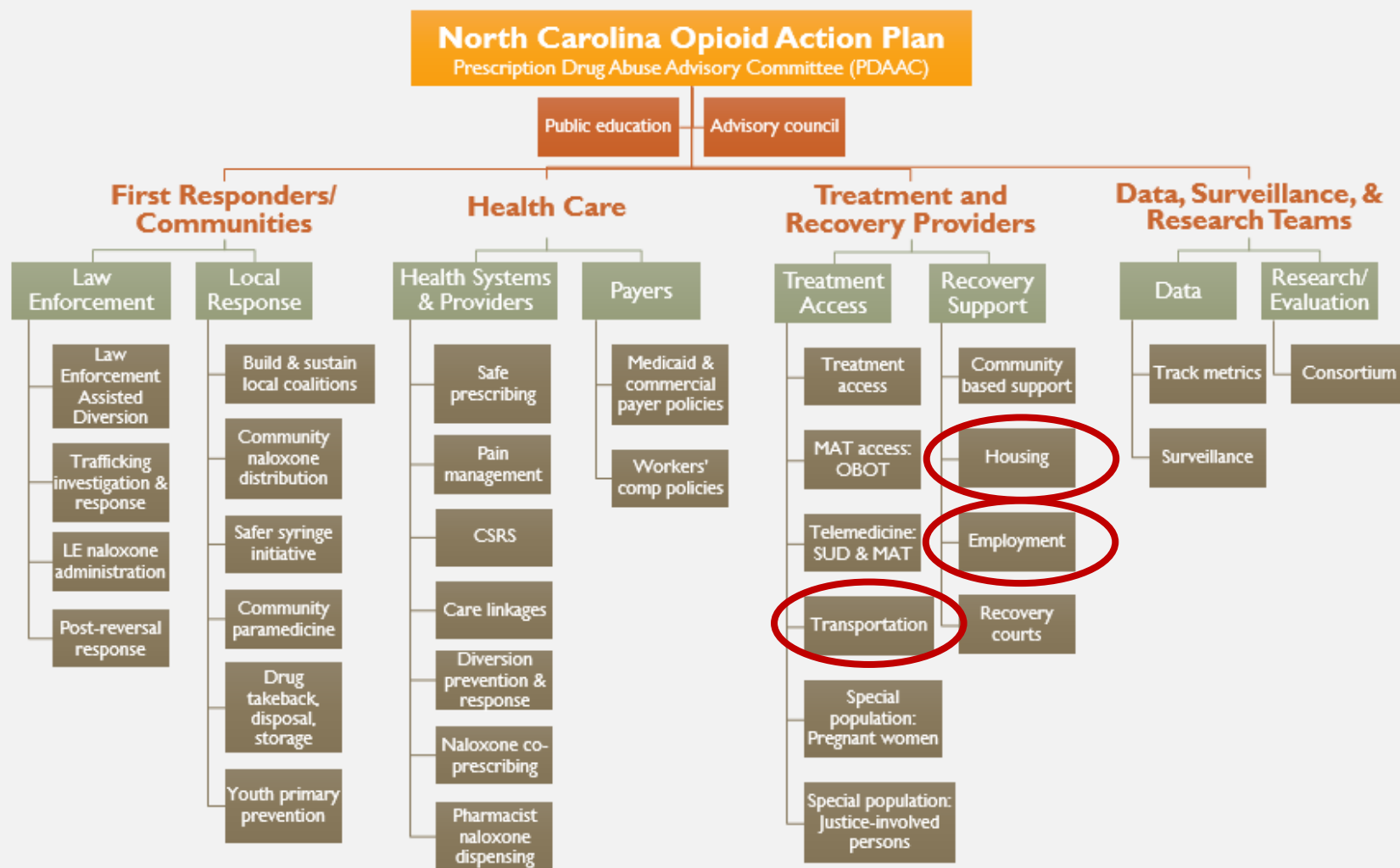
2017-2021

FOCUS AREAS

Given that the opioid epidemic is complex, we plan to implement comprehensive strategies in the following focus areas to reduce opioid addiction and overdose death:

- 1. Create a coordinated infrastructure**
- 2. Reduce oversupply of prescription opioids**
- 3. Reduce diversion of prescription drugs and flow of illicit drugs**
- 4. Increase community awareness and prevention**
- 5. Make naloxone widely available and link overdose survivors to care**
- 6. Expand treatment and recovery oriented systems of care**
- 7. Measure our impact and revise strategies based on results**

Treatment and Recovery Providers: Transportation, Housing, and Employment



Transportation

Possible ACTION: Explore options to provide transportation assistance to individuals seeking treatment

Consider

- **Align transportation** master plans, services, and public transportation routes with **treatment opportunities and recovery supports in community**
- Include people with substance use disorders as priority population in transportation needs assessments (throughout process and in Plans)
- Provide transportation or gas vouchers
- Find ways to minimize need for transportation by meeting people where they are in the community
- Allocate county funding for more transportation options

Housing

- **Possible ACTION:** Increase recovery-supported transitional housing options to provide a supportive living environment and improve the chance of a successful recovery
- Consider
 - Increasing access to affordable housing for all
 - Include people with substance use disorders as priority population in housing needs assessments (throughout process and in Plans)
 - Establish and maintain transitional housing for people leaving incarceration
 - Provide rental assistance
 - Allocate county funding for more housing options

Employment

Possible ACTION: Reduce barriers to employment for those with criminal history

Consider: Fair Chance Hiring Policies

- Delay employment application questions regarding person's criminal record until *after* applicant has had a chance to demonstrate skills, qualifications, and rehabilitation
- 18 states and 100+ municipalities have implemented fair chance hiring practices → Reduce crime and recidivism, Boost tax contributions

More Information:

- www.nchrc.org/fair-chance-hiring/
- www.ncjustice.org/?q=second-chance-alliance/ban-box-second-chance-fair-employment

Thank You

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